Office of Research



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WEST EUROPEANS TEND TO APPROVE OF THE "PEACE MOVEMENT," BUT DOUBT IT WILL HELP ACHIEVE PEACE

This is the third report presenting results from USIAcommissioned national public opinion surveys conducted
between October 8 and 30 in Britain, France, West Germany,
Italy, and the Netherlands. Personal interviews with
about 1000 adults were conducted in each country by reputable firms—mostly Gallup affiliates. They were completed before the death of Leonid Brezhnev and after the
change of government in West Germany.

Anti-Nuclear Movement is Widely Known and Generally Approved

Large majorities of West European publics (from 61% in France to 89% in the Netherlands) have heard or read about the "anti-nuclear weapons movement" in their country or "elsewhere in Western Europe." This is in sharp contrast to the low level of public awareness of START and INF talks.

Among the informed, opinion toward the movement is by and large approving, with a majority in Italy (61%) and pluralities elsewhere (40%-50% range) "generally in favor." Opposition ranges between one-fourth and one-third and about 15 percent are "generally indifferent."

From a list of adjectives, informed Europeans are more likely to perceive the movement as "sincere," but no clear overall image emerges.

PERCEPTION OF ANTI-NUCLEAR WEAPONS MOVEMENT October 1982

	Britain	France	<u>West</u> Germany	Italy	Netherlands
Sincere	33%	29%	39%	29%	29%
Misguided	32	3	17	13	16
Dedicated	21	14	10	24	11
Utopian	7	16	20	16	10
Communist- Dominated	10	5	17	7	6
Don't Know	9	33	4	11	31

Movement Generally Seen As Not Affecting Nuclear War Chances

Despite these broadly favorable views, prevailing opinion (43%-53%) everywhere except Italy is that the anti-nuclear weapons movement is having no effect on the chances of a nuclear war breaking out. Italians see it differently: half believe it "helps to reduce the chances of a nuclear war." Only about one-third hold this view in the other countries.

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